

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Yugoslavia

DATE DISTR 13 Dec 52

SUBJECT Plan for Dissolution of Collectives in Strumica District

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1. In order to appease the movement among the peasants to get out of the collectives, in September 1951 the District People's Council and the District UDB in Strumica ordered local officials to hold meetings of collective members and to explain to them that if the majority of the members of a collective vote for its dissolution, that collective will be dissolved as soon as harvesting has been completed and the accounts of each member have been prepared by the collective board. The dissolution of such collectives would occur at the end of 1951. After the collective has been dissolved, the land belonging to the collective will be divided among the collective members according to the number of members in each family. Then all of the peasants of each village would have to form a cooperative called Stopanstvo (Economy).
2. The peasants would be instructed by the Stopanstvo as to what they must plant, and how much production is expected of them. All harvested products would be surrendered to the Stopanstvo which would then sell the products and pay the peasants for the products they surrendered. The officials also told the peasants not to expect any aid in food from the Government.
3. The peasants of the Strumica area doubt that the Government considers seriously the plan for a Stopanstvo, and they believe that the plan was revealed only to ensure that the harvesting of corn would be completed. The peasants fear that voting will not be free and that they will be persecuted for voting for dissolution of the collectives. They believe that the establishment of a Stopanstvo will not greatly change their living conditions. They also believe that the regime will cheat them because the Government can fix the prices of their products and of consumer goods and that the members of the Communist Party will be given the better lots of land when the collectives are dissolved. The peasants do not expect to receive the land they owned before the collective was established.

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